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Montgomery, entitled *The King's Highway*, which the editor recommends most highly, not only as an exceedingly entertaining book of travel, but as a thoroughly satisfactory review of the foreign mission field in Egypt, India, Burma, China, Korea, and Japan.

The book is the outcome of a journey through the centers of the East, not in the usual superficial manner of the globe-trotting tourist, but with trained mind stored with historical knowledge, quick to seize upon the essentials. The work of Christian missions in all the countries

visited is closely observed and considered; statistics are furnished, and an abundance of local coloring carries the reader into the atmosphere of the various peoples about whom Mrs. Montgomery writes so sympathetically. Naturally that which appeals most strongly to the author is the womanhood of the East, the home life, and those special needs which a woman's intuition is quick to grasp.

The book is recommended especially to the Christian women of America. It is from their standpoint that the study has been made.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### **Summer Work in Religious Education**

One of the indications of the increasing recognition of the importance of religious education is seen in the place which this subject occupies in the summer schools and institutes, and in the tendency to give to these institutions the name of "Summer Schools of Religious Education." During the summer of 1915, special courses in various aspects of educational psychology, religious pedagogy, Sunday-school methods and organization, and the general principles and practices of religious education are being given at Chautauqua, N.Y.; Fayette, Mo.; Summerland Beach, Ohio; Bethany Park, Ind.; Keuka Park, N.Y.; Lexington, Ky.; Rock Hill, S.C.; Biloxi, Miss.; Baton Rouge, La.; Frankfort, Mich.; Canton, Mo.; Narragansett Pier, R.I.; Asbury Park, N.J.; Northfield, Mass.; Kalamazoo, Mich.

Besides the institutes and summer assemblies there is the more formal and scholarly work in religious education at universities and colleges. Regular courses are being given this summer at the University of Chicago with special courses and lectures for ministers and Sunday-school workers, at Columbia University in connec-

tion with Union Theological Seminary, and at the University of California in connection with Pacific Theological Seminary.

The next general convention of the Religious Education Association, which will be the thirteenth annual meeting, will have for its topic "Religious Education in the Home, Church, and School," and will give especial attention to the correlation of the two latter agencies. Preliminary studies are now being made of the various schemes and experiments in accredited study in the Bible and religion given by churches and received by the schools.

A new course on international peace, prepared for adult classes in the Sunday school, has especial interest, not only on account of the value of its content and method, but because it is the first official Sunday-school course issued by an interchurch body outside the International Sunday School Association. The course has been prepared by a special committee appointed by the Commission on Christian Education in the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

The past season has seen a larger extension of the city-institute plan for training

teachers than any preceding year. Probably nearly two hundred large and successful institutes were held in villages and cities throughout the country. Many enrolled more than five hundred students, usually spending weekly, first, one hour in attendance at a popular lecture on some aspect of religious education, and, second, dividing into classes on various technical aspects of this subject. A full account of the methods employed in organizing and conducting these institutes will be found in Professor Athearn's recent volume, *The City Institute for Religious Teachers*.

The secretary of the Methodist Sunday School in Topeka, Kansas, has compiled reports for five years showing the reason for every withdrawal from the school. Over one-half were on account of removal to another city. Only a little over 7 per cent could be classified as without good excuses. Of these, the largest number were in the adult department, the smallest number in the Senior department. This would seem to substantiate the theory held by some students of the school that the so-called leak at the beginning of adolescence is not nearly as serious as the loss which comes from lack of

system in transferring pupils from city to city, and still more from the lack of ability to work out a reasonable place for the adult in the school.

The Northern Baptist Convention has a highly efficient commission on moral and religious education which has already published a number of valuable pamphlets. The last two, Nos. 4 and 5, deal with the various systems of correlated Bible teaching and the study of religion with the work in public schools and with the home and family worship.

#### University Bible-Study Work

A very interesting summary has recently been made of the Bible-study work at the University of Pennsylvania. The total enrolment was 1,278. Weekly attendance was 748. The average number of weeks per group was more than 10. Altogether there were 70 groups of students, of which 23 were fraternities. There were 54 leaders of these various groups, of whom 22 were professors and only 7 were students. The experience of the University of Pennsylvania makes it evident that for successful Bible work in colleges a student leadership is less effective than that of more experienced men.

## CHURCH EFFICIENCY

### The Pacific Conference of the Asiatic Institute

The first Pacific conference to be held under the auspices of the Asiatic Institute will meet in San Francisco in connection with the Exposition, July 19-20. The American Historical Association and the two great universities of central California will co-operate with the Institute. The general topics for discussion will be:

July 19—Denison Memorial Day

Subject: "The Pacific as the Theater of Two Civilizations"

- a) Exclusion in the Pacific Basin
- b) Ownership and Exploitation of Pacific Regions

- c) Armament and Military in the Pacific
- d) American-Asiatic Relations

July 20—Rockhill Memorial Day

Subject: "The Pacific Basin as the Theater of the World's Great Hereafter"

- e) Conditions of Future Peace in the Pacific
- f) National Policies in the Pacific
- g) Demands of Humanity in the Pacific
- h) Conflict of European Nations in the Pacific

### Progress toward Methodist Union

The Board of Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church has unanimously accepted the overture for church unity made by the Methodist Episcopal Church South.